

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th March 1892.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Ahmadí"	...	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	12th March 1892.
2	"Bankura Darpan"	...	Bankura	.....	
3	"Kaliyuga"	...	Calcutta	.....	
4	"Kasipur Nivási"	...	Kasipur, Barisal	280	
5	"Navamihir"	...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	600	
6	"Ulubaria Darpan"	...	Ulubaria	700	13th ditto.
Tri-monthly.					
7	"Hitakari"	...	Kushtia	800	12th ditto.
Weekly.					
8	"Bangavási"	...	Calcutta	20,000	19th ditto.
9	"Banganivási"	...	Ditto	8,000	18th ditto.
10	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	...	Burdwan	335	15th ditto.
11	"Cháruvartá"	...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	400	14th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakash"	...	Dacca	2,200	20th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette"	...	Hooghly	825	18th ditto.
14	"Grámvási"	...	Ramkristopore, Howrah	1,000	21st ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká"	...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	16th ditto.
16	"Hitavádi"	...	Calcutta	.....	17th ditto.
17	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	...	Berhampore	.....	
18	"Navayuga"	...	Calcutta	500	
19	"Prakriti"	...	Ditto	.....	
20	"Pratikár"	...	Berhampore	609	
21	"Prithivi"	...	Calcutta	.....	
22	"Rangpur Dikprakash"	...	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....	17th ditto.
23	"Sahachar"	...	Calcutta	800-1,000	16th ditto.
24	"Sahayogi"	...	Barisál	342	12th ditto.
25	"Sakti"	...	Dacca	.....	19th ditto.
26	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
27	"Samaya"	...	Calcutta	3,000	
28	"Sanjivani"	...	Ditto	4,000	
29	"Sansodhíni"	...	Chittagong	.....	
30	"Sáraswat Patra"	...	Dacca	300	
31	"Som Prakash"	...	Calcutta	600	18th ditto.
32	"Srimanta Sadagar"	...	Ditto	.....	
33	"Sudhákár"	...	Ditto	3,100	
34	"Sulabh Samáchar"	...	Ditto	.....	
Daily.					
35	"Banga Vidyá Prakashiká"	...	Calcutta	500	18th, 19th, and 22nd March 1892.
36	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	...	Ditto	.....	17th March 1892.
37	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká"	...	Ditto	1,000	20th to 24th March 1892.
38	"Samvád Prabhákar"	...	Ditto	1,500	18th, 19th, and 21st to 24th March 1892.
39	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	...	Ditto	300	18th, 19th, and 21st to 23rd March 1892.
40	"Sulabh Dainik"	...	Ditto	.....	17th and 19th March 1892.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
41	"Dacca Gazette"	...	Dacca	.....	21st March 1892.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
42	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchár Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	17th March 1892.
43	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna	250	
Weekly.				
44	"Aryávarta"	Calcutta	750	
45	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	
46	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,200	3rd, 10th and 17th March 1892.
47	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
48	"Desí Vyápári"	Calcutta	.....	
49	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto	.....	7th, and 21st March 1892.
50	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	500	
51	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	4,500	
URDU.				
Weekly.				
52	"Al Punch"	Bankipore	.....	
53	"Anis"	Patna	.....	
54	"Calcutta Punch"	Calcutta	.....	
55	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto	340	18th March 1892.
56	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	.....	21st ditto.
57	"Mehre Monawar"	Muzaffarpur	.....	
58	"Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad"	Murshidabad	150	
59	"Setare Hind"	Arrah	.....	
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
60	"Asha"	Cuttack	165	
61	"Echo"	Ditto	.....	
62	"Pradíp"	Ditto	.....	
63	"Samyabadi"	Ditto	.....	
64	"Taraka and Subhavártá"	Ditto	.....	
65	"Utkalprána"	Mohurbhunj	.....	
Weekly.				
66	"Dipaka"	Cuttack	.....	
67	"Samvad Váhika"	Balasore	200	25th February and 3rd March 1892.
68	"Uriya and Navasamvád"	Ditto	420	24th ditto and 2nd ditto.
69	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack	420	27th ditto and 5th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
70	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	480	
71	"Silchar"	Silchar	500	7th ditto and 7th ditto.
Weekly.				
72	"Srihatta Mihir"	Sylhet	332	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

BANGANIVASI,
March 18th, 1892.

Referring to the new Lushai expedition, the *Banganivasi*, of the 18th March, says that the English hope to subdue the Lushais very soon, but that seems quite an impossibility. The English Government have on several occasions quarrelled with the hill tribes, but have never been able to settle the differences easily. If the Lushais submit at all on the present occasion, they will not do so until after a stubborn resistance and much bloodshed. It is quite inexplicable why the English Government should unnecessarily seek to destroy the independence of these mountain people, for it is all one whether they are brought under subjection or not. The English Government may hope to derive some benefit by treating them well. But the British troops on the frontier seem always anxious and impatient to catch an opportunity of showing their prowess in the presence of the Lushais and other mountain tribes. It was only the other day that the Black Mountain Expedition came to an end, and the Government is already engaged in another expedition like it. Such things are possible only because no one is accountable for the money which is squandered in these undertakings.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 15th, 1892.

Thefts at Ichhapur in the district of Burdwan.

2. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that on the 26th February last, a theft was committed in the house of Ambika Kamarni of Ichhapur in the district of Burdwan. But no police officer has, up to this time, come to the village to investigate the matter, and the chaukidar has ordered the openings made by the thieves to be closed. The writer does not know why the police invariably orders the openings made in people's houses by thieves to be closed. On the same night, the thieves also made an attempt on the house of Madhu Ganguli, but as Madhu awoke, the attempt failed. But the police made no enquiry into this matter either. This has terrified the people. The Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police are asked to look to the matter.

A suspicious death in Berhampore.

BANGANIVASI,
March 19th, 1892.

3. The *Banganivasi*, of the 19th March, has the following:—

There is great sensation just now in Berhampore about the death of one Domon Ghosh. The circumstances of the case as given by a correspondent are as follow:—On the 12th February last, there was a ball in the barracks near the Collector's cutcherry in Berhampore. Domon was the servant of the proprietor of a factory, and accompanied his master to the place of amusement. In the depth of the night the strong-bodied Domon was found lying wounded in the ball-room. He remained there in that condition till the afternoon of the following day, when he was taken to the hospital, in charge of a constable. But the constable did not bring with him the usual police form in such cases. And when Domon was lying in the ball-room no relative of his was allowed to come near him. Nor was he properly nursed or placed under a physician. The man died on the morning after his removal to the hospital. His evidence was not taken before his death, and after his death there was an unusual delay in holding a *post mortem*. And no one knows the result of the *post mortem*. The story as related by the correspondent is a mysterious one. How Domon came to be wounded in the ball-room is a question which ought to be answered if the European ladies and gentlemen in Berhampore have a care for their own reputation. And it will be a disgrace to the authorities if the real circumstances of this case are not brought to light. The public have the right to demand of the authorities a clear solution of the whole affair.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Hitakari*, of the 12th March, says that if Government only meant to reduce expenditure by appointing Parbati Babu, late head clerk of the Kushtia Small Cause Court, to the sarishtadarship of the Bhanga Munsifi in the

HITAKARI,
March 12th, 1892.

The sarishtadarship of the First Munsif's Court, Kushtia.

Faridpur district, on a salary of Rs. 150, then its object would have been equally gained by appointing him to the sarishtadarship of the First Munsif's Court in Kushtia. It is absolutely necessary to appoint an English-knowing clerk to this post, its holder having to write the records of Small Cause Court suits and all certificates, including certificates of succession. Nothing but the inefficiency of the present sarishtadar of the First Munsif's Court enabled Bhuban Baral to tamper with the accounts.

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th March, says that the costs of the civil courts are increasing at such a rate that civil justice may now be said to be sold by auction.

Civil and criminal justice in India. And as regards criminal justice, it has in a manner ceased to be administered, cases being now decided just as the Police and the District Magistrate wish that they should be. Pleaders, Mukhtars, and witnesses do not now go to the courts of the Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates in the hope of seeing justice done to the accused, but simply to tender evidence on his behalf, and to criticise the evidence which is tendered against him. For, as regards the result of the trial, they know well that the accused will be convicted. Whatever justice is done in this respect is done by the Sessions Courts and the High Court. The present Lieutenant-Governor has ordered Deputy Magistrates not to postpone cases, and the fear of losing their appointments now leads them to dispose of cases as quickly as possible. People have in short lost their confidence in all the courts, specially the criminal courts. The people of this country had always taken a pride in their courts, but through the fault of some haughty officials, their courts have now been reduced to Turkish courts presided over by kázis. The Anglo-Indians should not think that their interests will not be affected by this degeneracy of the courts. After all, the Congress's demand for a separation of the judicial and executive functions is not an unjust one, and the writer regrets to say that the interference of the Lieutenant-Governor and the District Magistrate in the administration of criminal justice is producing mischievous consequences. If justice in the British Indian Courts comes to be administered according to the wish of the executive head of the Government, one does not know where will lie the distinction between the Russian and the English system of rule. It may be said that Russia does not possess freedom of speech and writing, but India does. But what is that free speech worth which can influence nobody, and what is that free writing worth which can be put an end to in an hour by a man like the late Lord Lytton? The people of Bihár have of late been very much humoured by the authorities by the promise of excluding Bengalis from all Government appointments in that province. All officials, from the Lieutenant-Governor downwards, have been year after year dining at the houses of the Bihár zamindars. But, in spite of all this, the prayer of the Bihár zamindars for a postponement of the cadastral survey has not been granted. All this shows that the meaning of the English word *liberty* is English liberty—liberty, that is, which the people of England alone should enjoy at home. Outside the limits of England, the British, the Turkish, and the Russian system of government appear cast in much the same mould.

BANGANIVASI,
March 18th, 1892.

6. The *Banganivási*, of the 18th March, has the following:—

Mr Fiddian, Magistrate of Howrah. It is said that the Lieutenant-Governor, during his recent visit to the Howrah District Magistrate's Court, upbraided Mr. Fiddian in the presence of his amla for neglect of duty. This wounded Mr. Fiddian's vanity, and he is proceeding to England on three months' leave. But if the Lieutenant-Governor cares to enquire, he will find that not Mr. Fiddian alone but ninety-nine per cent. of the public officers neglect their duties.

BANGANIVASI.

7. Referring to the conduct of Mr. Carey, Assistant Magistrate of Patna, towards Maulvi Ali Saheb, a mukhtar of his court, the same paper says that no respectable pleader or mukhtar will, after this incident, dare appear in Mr. Carey's court. But how will suitors in that case obtain justice in his court? Sir Charles Elliott ought to enquire into the matter. *Hákims* like Mr. Carey are a disgrace to British rule, and if they are not kept in check, people will not find their honour safe.

Mr. Carey, Assistant Magistrate of Patna.

8. The *Sanjivani*, of the 19th March, says that a respectable woman of Calcutta, named Biraja, was very early on the morning of Friday, the 11th March, while on her way to the river to bathe, roughly handled by one

Light punishment in a case in the Calcutta Police Court.

Kalinath Banerji for an immodest purpose. The man was immediately arrested by the police, but Kalisankar and Prasanna, brothers of the offender, snatched him from the hands of the police. Biraja brought a charge against Kalinath, and the police brought a charge against the other two in the Police court. The Magistrate fined Kalinath Rs. 20, and the other two Rs. 15 each. But the punishments have been very light considering the gravity of the offence. Large numbers of Hindu women go to the river to bathe early every morning, and the precedent created by the case will encourage wicked people to commit oppression on them.

SANJIVANI,
March 19th, 1892.

9. The same paper says that Mr. Fiddian, Magistrate of Howrah, was very anxious to get the Chairmanship of the Howrah Municipality. And he has got his wish through the favour of the Lieutenant-Governor. His

Honour, without waiting for the opinion of the ratepayers of Howrah, appointed Mr. Fiddian Chairman of their Municipality at the request of the Commissioners. The appointment was made only a short time ago, and already leave of absence for three months has been granted by Government to the Magistrate. People may, therefore, well ask Mr. Fiddian why he was so anxious to get the Chairmanship and why after his appointment to that office he is leaving it so soon. It is said that the Lieutenant-Governor's remonstrances to him during His Honour's late visit to his court for neglect of duty wounded Mr. Fiddian's feelings, and he has therefore resolved to go on leave. It is for Mr. Fiddian alone to say if this report is correct. The Lieutenant-Governor is to be greatly blamed for appointing Mr. Fiddian to the Chairmanship. Indeed, Sir Charles Elliott's treatment of Municipalities is such as to make it difficult for people to take him for a friend of Municipal government.

SANJIVANI.

10. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for commuting the capital sentence passed on Ahsanulla Sheikh of Pabna to one of transportation for life. The writer has heard that the people of the district have still grave doubts as to the guilt of the accused, and think that his innocence may be proved by a more careful enquiry.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 21st, 1892.

11. The *Gramvasi*, of the 21st March, reports the following case from Serampore:—

Magisterial high-handedness in Serampore.

On Friday, the 18th March, the Commissioner of Burdwan paid a visit to Serampore. While out inspecting the town, he had with him Mr. Windsor, the Magistrate in charge of the sub-division and the District Superintendent of Police. On reaching the Grand Trunk Road, the party found the railway gate closed. A *ghurami* was standing near, and the Magistrate ordered him to open the gate. The man obeyed, and was going to open the gate when the gate-keeper came and shove him aside, and closed the gate. Thereupon the Magistrate lost all patience, severely beat the two men, opened the gate and drove away. Immediately afterwards, a train passed away, and it was on account of this train that the gate-keeper had closed the gate. He had simply done his duty. As for the *ghurami*, he was going to do an illegal act simply to oblige the Magistrate, and yet he, too, was beaten by the Magistrate! The poor men had no alternative, but to put up with the beating. What could they do? Will not this Magistrate be punished? It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will see that justice is done.

GRAMVASI,
March 21st, 1892.

(d)—Education.

12. A correspondent of the *Sahayogi*, of the 12th March, says that repeated petitions have been made by the authorities of the Karapur-Rayapasa Sammilani School in Barisal to the Backergunge District Board for pecuniary aid. But the Board has not listened to the prayer. The school is the only educational institution in the midst of some ten villages near Karapur in Barisal, and its abolition for want of funds will be a serious loss to the people of these villages,

A village school in Barisal.

SAHAYOGI,
March 12th, 1892.

who have for the last three or four years been doing everything in their power to keep it alive.

CHARUVARTA,
March 14th, 1892.

13. The *Charuvarta*, of the 14th March, says that it is rumoured that Government will soon retire from the management of the Monghyr, Arrah, and Muzaffarpur Zillah schools. But Bihár is far behind Bengal in educational progress. And, not to speak of Bihár, even in Bengal it is not yet time for Government to withdraw from the education of the people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 15th, 1892.

14. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that the *Englishman* newspaper's statement that a perusal of Mr. R. C. Dutt's history of India is calculated to shake the faith of the Hindu and Muhammadan students in their respective religions is perfectly true. But the *Englishman's* statement has given offence to some of the Calcutta newspapers. This is perhaps due to their dislike of that paper. If they had considered the matter impartially, they could not have blamed the *Englishman*.

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

15. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th March, says that Sir Alfred Croft, Director of Public Instruction, will make over charge to Mr. Tawney on the 2nd April next, and proceed to England on furlough. The writer will be glad to see Sir Alfred return to this country in good health after having enjoyed his furlough.

NAVAYUGA,
March 17th, 1892.

16. The *Navayuga*, of the 17th March, says that in the course of his speech on the occasion of the recent distribution of prizes to the girls of the Bethune College, the Lieutenant-Governor said that everybody in this country now wishes to see girls read in schools with boys, and that judging from the plaudits which mark the conferring of degrees on female graduates at the University convocation, it was clear that people's dislike to females getting University degrees has disappeared. In the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, people's love for female education is increasing. Now a days, Government appears more anxious to promote education among females than among males, for it knows that without the spread of education among Hindu females, the foundations of Hindu society will not be undermined.

BANGAVASI,
March 19th, 1892.

The higher training movement.

17. The *Bangavasi*, of the 19th March, has the following:—

The boys of this country, educated as they are in English schools and colleges, are most of them becoming immoral, wicked, and mischievous. The fact is not to be gainsaid or concealed. All high officials, not excepting the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, have had to admit this. This is very scandalous, indeed. It is disgraceful to the boys and to their guardians, and specially to the authorities who, in the name of doing good to the country, are spreading English education among its people. Perhaps the authorities are themselves afraid that the bad effects of English education will bring it into discredit with the people. But whatever the reason may be, they have been for some time attempting to remove the stigma which has come to be attached to English education in this country; and the Higher Training Association is one indication of this desire. Attempts in this direction were indeed made before now, and notably by the late Sir George Campbell, whose order for the introduction of gymnastics in the schools and colleges of this country certainly contemplated moral as much as physical improvement. But under Sir George Campbell, the movement was not an open one; there was no compulsion, and did not mean pressure or compulsion. But thanks to the higher training movement, it appears that greater pressure will be put upon school-boys to take to physical exercise. In this new movement, the first importance is given to physical exercise as a means of imparting higher training to the boys, probably under the impression that physical exercise will make boys modest, genteel, and submissive to their elders. To literature is given the second importance. The heads of this section will guide boys in their selection of reading books. Lord Lansdowne has contributed five thousand rupees towards the establishment of a library in connection with this section. Next comes the general section, which deals specially with moral improvement. The principal feature of this section is the delivery of lectures. Boys, without distinction of religion, race, or caste, will be allowed to attend these lectures. For the present, therefore,

thanks to the Association, lectures will be pretty frequently delivered. And as Mr. Risley, the President of the Association, has declared that religious lectures will also be allowed in the Association, the audience at the Higher Training Association lectures will be treated to dissertations on all sorts of religion.

It must be admitted that the aim and object of the Association is good. But the public are doubtful about its working and its results. It seems as if the public do not like the method in which the Association has set to work, and they do not consequently expect it to produce good results. The press is almost unanimous in condemning the movement.

18. The same paper has heard that Mr. R. C. Dutt intends to publish a new edition of his "Brief History of India," removing the objectionable passages. This is very good. But the writer must plainly tell Mr. Dutt that the Hindu period will have to be thoroughly recast before his book can be fit to be read by Hindu boys. The author has displayed the greatest hatred of Hinduism in this portion of his book.

BANGAVASI,
March 19th, 1892.

19. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 21st March, is glad that Mr. R. C. Dutt's History of India has been appointed for the Entrance Examination. The object of reading history is not simply to learn dates and facts, but to imbibe a love for one's own country and for one's own ancestors. And Mr. Dutt's history is eminently adapted to serve this purpose. The objection has been raised in certain quarters that the book contains matter which ought not to be read by orthodox Hindu or Muhammadan boys. But the writer is sure that this allegation is perfectly groundless. Of course, one intent on finding flaws in Mr. Dutt's book would not have to take much pains in order to find a goodly lot. But the writer would nevertheless say that the book is the best of its class, and there is not another which can compare with it. It is to be hoped that the University authorities will turn a deaf ear to the effusions of jealousy which have appeared in the *Englishman* against Mr. Dutt's book. The *Englishman* is the inveterate enemy of the natives, and one should think twice before accepting advice offered by that paper for the good of the native population.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 21st, 1892.

20. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 24th March, says that a meeting of the Board of Studies in Law of the Calcutta University will be held to-day (24th March) in Mr. Justice Amir Ali's private chamber in the High Court. The meeting will decide whether or not a book on Muhammadan law compiled by Mr. Ameer Ali himself should be adopted as a text-book in the B.L. Examination. But it is clear that the meeting, which will consider a question in which Mr. Amir Ali is personally interested, ought to have been held elsewhere than in Mr. Amir Ali's own chamber. The public cannot be blamed if they find fault with such things, nor should the University authorities encourage such doings.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 24th, 1892.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, of the 12th March, says that the cholera ward within the compound of the female hospital at Barisál should be removed elsewhere. It is at present located in a thatched hut situated on a public road, and the groans of the patients are heard by people using that road; while the smell from the patients' evacuations causes them the greatest harm and inconvenience. The respectable people of Barisál have applied to the Municipality on the subject, and the writer hopes that their application will be granted.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
March 12th, 1892.

22. The *Hitakari*, of the 12th March, says that by the encroachment of the river on the road running alongside it, Kushtia had been left in possession of only one good road, namely, that from the station passing by the cutcherry. But lately the portion of it between the bazar and the cutchery has become so dilapidated through the neglect of the municipality that it is always full of dust, thereby causing great annoyance to passengers. The municipality ought to arrange for the watering of the road.

HITAKARI,
March 12th, 1892.

SAHAYOGI,
March 12th, 1892.

23. The *Sahayogi*, of the 12th March, complains of the night-soil service in the Barisál Municipality. The *mehters* are frequently found irregular in their duty, and excepting the head *mehters* there is no one to keep watch over them.

Night-soil service in the Barisál Municipality.

The latrine tax yields the Barisál Municipality a revenue of not less than ten thousand rupees per annum, and the whole of this amount is annually spent for the Night-soil Department, and yet people have to suffer throughout the year the nuisance of filthy privies. All this is due to the Municipal Commissioners not taking particular interest in their work. Of the fifteen Municipal Commissioners in Barisál, not more than half-a-dozen conscientiously discharge their duties.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 15th, 1892.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, cannot say that censure passed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the Commissioners of the Puri Municipality has been undeserved.

The Lieutenant-Governor on the Puri Municipality.

Municipalities exist chiefly for the purpose of promoting the health and convenience of the population confided to their care. And the responsibility of the Municipality of Puri, which is a place of pilgrimage, is very great in this respect, and it does not seem, from the Lieutenant-Governor's words, that the Commissioners of that Municipality have discharged their duties well. The arrangements of the Municipality for removing road sweepings, &c., are very defective. This may be due to the smallness of its income. But even as regards that, the municipal authorities are not faultless. For they have allowed so much as one-half of the amount assessed as taxes to remain unrealised. That is surely a proof of their incapacity. If it be said that the taxes were unduly assessed, and their full collection would have resulted in an oppression of the rate-payers, the municipality will still be guilty of incapacity. It is hoped that no other municipality will be guilty of incapacity of this nature.

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th March, says that hitherto Sir Charles Elliott was giving satisfaction to the public by his actions.

The supply of municipal rate bill forms.

But the writer fears that His Honour is gradually carrying matters to excess. His Honour is aware that Deputy Magistrates, as a rule, have to work till 8 o'clock in the evening, and yet he has issued a circular prohibiting the postponement of cases, simply because a Deputy Magistrate postponed a case several times. Such interference in the administration of justice on the part of the Lieutenant-Governor is improper. And Sir Charles Elliott has recently issued another strange circular, requesting the Chairmen of all mufassal municipalities to take the rate-bill forms from the Government Printing Department. The words used in the circular are "may take" and not "must take." But a request from His Honour must be taken to mean a command. Now, the Superintendent of Government Printing does not get these bills printed in his own establishment. From last year the order for printing these bill forms has been given to the proprietors of the Caledonian Press, who must be related to some high official, and the object of this strange circular is to fill their pockets. The Caledonian Press charges at the rate of Rs. 6 per thousand for printing these forms, a rate, which is very much in excess of that obtaining in the bazar, the latter being only Rs. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per thousand. And their fear of incurring official displeasure leads the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of some municipalities to take their forms from the Caledonian Press. It seems that the Lieutenant-Governor will by-and-by fix the shops from which people must take their supplies of the most necessary articles of food. The circular has been probably issued by an Under-Secretary without the knowledge of the Lieutenant-Governor, but the mischief which is being done by it is none the less for His Honour's not knowing of it, and the people are blaming His Honour for it. The Chairmen of municipalities are at liberty not to act according to the circular, for why should rate-payers pay double the just price in order that an Englishman's pocket may be filled? As Mr. Acton, of the Caledonian Press cannot supply the forms at the bazar rate, why should municipalities take their forms from him? It is rumoured that the *Pioneer and Company* are the proprietors of this press; if so, there is the greater reason for not taking the forms from that press. As it could not supply the forms in time last year, the municipalities; which depended on it for their supply, were put to great difficulty, in the matter of collecting rates. Government does not know

this, and has therefore again issued the circular this year. The people of the country has established printing presses, and heads of the municipalities should take their supply from those presses, and not from a press established by a foreigner, who is also a deadly enemy of the people of Bengal. The municipal authorities should take courage. They should remember that the Government of Bengal is not the final authority and that there is above it the Government of India and the two Houses of Parliament. The Duke of Argyll once ordered the Government of India to take its supply of certain necessary articles from a number of Scotch merchants, and it was rumoured that a son of the Duke was related to one of these merchants. And in pursuance of that order, a pencil worth, only four annas, has even now to be indented for through the Secretary of State. Lord Ripon's proposal regarding indigenous supplies has not been given effect to. And has not that been enough? If Government gets permission to make purchases in the Indian bazars, it can make a saving of at least one crore of rupees, and there will then exist no necessity of continuing the income-tax. The people of this country cannot compel Government to make its purchases here, but they have certainly power to determine how they should purchase such things as their municipal bill forms. They ought to get these things at the cheapest market, and prefer a countryman of theirs to a foreigner, when both countryman and foreigner offer to supply at the same rate.

26. The same paper says that it seems from the last municipal elections in Calcutta, that people have, to some extent, realised the beneficial character of the system of Self-government. The writer is, however, sorry to say that his countrymen allowed themselves to be moved a little too much by considerations of courtesy and civility, and consequently, those people have obtained the largest number of votes who visited the voters at their houses personally or by agent. The mischief which has resulted from this is that some really able men have failed to get themselves elected. It is hoped that these men will be nominated by Government.

The last Municipal elections in Calcutta.

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

The Calcutta Municipal elections.

Calcutta:—

27. The *Banganivasi*, of the 18th March, has the following remarks on the late elections in

BANGANIVASI,
March 18th, 1892.

The rate-payers of Calcutta evinced great enthusiasm in the late Municipal elections, and in most wards attempts were made to return really worthy persons as Commissioners. This is no doubt a good sign, but we are sorry to observe that electoral corruption has increased in the same proportion as electoral enthusiasm. In many cases rival candidates had recourse to foul means, and violated every rule of etiquette in order to defeat each other at the polls, and even the assistance of the law courts was sought for this purpose. It is no excuse that similar occurrences take place at the Parliamentary elections in England. None but honest means ought to be adopted in a good cause.

But considering the zeal of the rate-payers, the results of the elections have been rather disappointing. In many cases the rate-payers had not the moral courage to refuse votes to unworthy candidates, and it is to be regretted that many selfish Commissioners have been re-elected. By re-electing some of the supporters of Mr. Lee, in his house-allowance question, the rate-payers have done poor justice to their own interests. On the other hand, many independent Commissioners have been kept out. Mr. N. N. Ghosh, editor of the *Nation*, who opposed the house allowance, is one of them. Babu Mati Lal Ghosh, Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, a new candidate, has also been defeated. The writer is sorry to observe that such worthy men have not been elected, whilst men quite unworthy of the honour, nay, wholly innocent of all knowledge of the English language, have been returned.

Many worthy Europeans refused to stand as candidates. Mr. Apcar, an independent man, is one of them. It is probable that the increase of official influence in the municipality deterred them from seeking the honour.

28. The *Sanjivani*, of the 19th March, is glad that Babus Bhupendranath Basu, Surendra Nath Das, Devendra Chandra Ghosh, Mohini Mohan Chatterji, and Devaprasad Sarvadhikari have been successful at the Municipal elections in Calcutta. It is hoped they will satisfy their constituents by their work. Babu Radha Charan Pal, son of the late Rai Kristo Das Pal, Bahadur,

The Municipal elections in Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,
March 19th, 1892.

has also been elected a Commissioner; and his choice will prove a happy one if he has inherited the qualities of his illustrious father. The failure of Mr. N. N. Ghosh to secure success at the polls is to be regretted, as in him the Corporation will lose an independent member. Babus Chandi Lal Sinha and Kali Nath Mitter and Dr. Zahiruddin should not have been re-elected, as they never think of the rate-payers' hardships when supporting increased municipal expenditure.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 21st, 1892.

Local Self-Government

29. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 21st March, refers to the late Municipal elections in Calcutta,

and says:—

Will anybody say, after the hot contest in Calcutta for the Municipal Commissionerships, that the Indians do not want Local Self-Government? Indeed, no stronger proof could be given of the people's desire to possess the privilege. There has been, it is true, considerable abuse of the privileges conferred on the people; but what human action or institution has ever been faultless? The wheat is always mixed with tares. And it will be so until human nature is cast in a different mould altogether. It is the same everywhere, and the writer fails to see why in the case of the people of this country alone, should faults which are unavoidable, be made a pretext for depriving them altogether of the privilege of Local Self-Government. It is entirely in the will of the rulers to give the people any political privilege or not. If they give, people will thankfully accept the privilege; if they do not give, people will pray to Heaven to incline their rulers favourably towards them. This is all the people have, and they want nothing more. Say that you don't give the people such and such a privilege because you don't like to give it to them, and not because they are not fit for it. For, to say that they are unfit for it, will be a falsehood which they will be unable to tolerate. There is no harm in being candid, for the people will not wilfully do their rulers any harm, and even if they wish to do them any harm, they lack the power to act as they would wish. Where, then, is the necessity of bringing disgrace on the English name by falsely imputing faults to a weak people?

GRAMVASI,
March 21st, 1892.

The Howrah Municipality.

30. The *Gramvasi*, of the 21st March, has the following on the affairs of the Howrah Municipality:—

The Municipality seems to be without a head, and all its officers down to the common peon are free to do what they like. The Commissioners cannot find time to visit their wards within three years during which they hold their office. There are, of course, a few honourable exceptions. Babu Asutosh Basu, has, for instance, the good of his ward at heart. Cholera has been raging here for nearly a month, and there have been deaths in almost every house. But the Municipality has done nothing to check the ravages of the disease. Mehter service in the Municipality is very unsatisfactory. The privies of poor people are cleansed at intervals of two or three days, and night-soil is often not removed, but kept secreted in lonely places. Those who are supposed to superintend the work of the mehters are rarely to be met with. The drainage of the Municipality is imperfect, and narrow lanes become submerged and water-logged during the rains. Gopinath Chogdar's lane becomes impassable. Last year the Municipality was asked to repair that lane. A road overseer inspected it, and gave hopes of repair. But nothing has yet been done in the matter. Fires are breaking out in several places within the Municipality, and is it not the duty of the Municipal authorities to take steps to put them down?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 24th, 1892.

The sanitation of Puri.

31. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 24th March, says that the Lieutenant Governor has rejected the suggestion of the Calcutta Committee for the improvement of sanitation in Puri, and that the town should be supplied with drinking water from the river Subarnamayi. His Honour has accepted the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner that the water of the Subarnamayi will not be good for drinking purposes, and he, therefore, proposes to remove the water complaint of the town, and improve its sanitation by sinking a large number of wells, and he has, with this end in view, ordered an analysis of the water of three or four wells. This is a move in the right direction. But the writer would warn His Honour not to carry out his project of emptying and re-filling the sacred tanks of Puri every year. The water of these tanks is regarded as sacred by the Hindus, and

the carrying out of the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal in regard to these tanks will wound their religious feelings. The sanitary condition of Puri ought to be improved in a way which will not interfere with the religion of the Hindus, and the writer does not consider it impracticable so to improve it.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

The cadastral survey of Bihár.

32. The *Banganivasi*, of the 18th March, has the following:—

BANGANIVASI,
March 18th, 1892.

The Bengal Government has taken a firm resolution to make a cadastral survey of Bihár, and has refused to be dissuaded from it by the protest of the whole country. The British Indian Association on behalf of the zamindars, and the Indian Association on behalf of the raiyats, stoutly protested against this measure of Government, but Government has refused to listen either to the one or to the other. The authorities here have persuaded the Secretary of State to say that the survey has been undertaken for the benefit of the raiyats, and it is almost settled that the work will commence in November next. The writer, however, fails to see why Government should persist in this measure. At first, Government wanted to persuade the zamindars that the proposed survey would be of benefit to them. But the zamindars let the Government know that they were not anxious to benefit at so high a price as the cost of the survey will necessarily amount to. And baffled in that quarter, Government turned round towards the raiyats. But the Indian Association, as the representative of the raiyats, told Government that the Biháris raiyats would much rather enjoy their lands as they have done for generations, than accept the Government's offer to help by the proposed survey. But the noble-minded Government will not let the raiyats off so easily. A man of plain common sense would think that one ought to desist from offering help, where help is not needed, or where help is regarded as a positive mischief. At all events, if one cannot resist the desire to do good to others, one should first of all prove his own disinterestedness. But Government has not given proof of its own disinterestedness in the present business. It has not relieved the Biháris of liability to the expenditure which will be incurred in the survey work. If Government's object in instituting the survey is to protect the raiyats from their extorting zamindars, and enable them to enjoy their rights unmolested, then the whole cost of the survey ought to be borne by itself, otherwise the raiyats will not believe the Government's professions of friendship. But the writer cannot understand why Government should be so anxious to settle the rights of the raiyats. In cases where individual zamindars exact more rent from individual raiyats than is demandable for the quantity of land held by the latter, the raiyats can easily have their respective holdings surveyed, and their rights recorded under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. It is not necessary that, in order to guard against such isolated cases of oppression by zamindars, the whole country should be subjected to a cadastral survey, and the burden of the costs of such survey should be laid upon the shoulders of the raiyats. It is in India alone, ruled as it is by a despotic Government, that the authorities dare to ignore public opinion in a matter involving the expenditure of the people's own money, and in which none but the people themselves are most interested. Indeed, Government's action in this survey affair has led people to suspect that it has some interest of its own to serve by means of the proposed survey. On the other hand, it is said that the proposal for the survey is prompted by the Government's desire to ascertain every particular regarding the land in Bihár. And if this be the real object of Government, no one can have any objection to the survey provided Government takes upon itself the whole expense. It is not fair that one should bear the burden, and another enjoy all the benefit. Again, it is not proper that the survey should take place this year, which is a very bad year. In his reply to the address of the British Indian Association, the Lieutenant-Governor said that the coming year was expected to be a good one, and the survey would therefore be commenced in November next. But how does His Honour anticipate a good harvest next year? Want of rain at the end of the last month of Magh has filled men's minds with misgivings about the next harvest. But supposing that the next year will be a good one, will the raiyats be able to sufficiently recover from the effects of scarcity and starvation this year to pay the expenses of the survey so soon?

The European zamindars of Bihár are also of opinion that the proposed survey is quite unnecessary, and they have, in combination with the native zamindars of the province, formed a Committee to protest against the action of Government. It is to be hoped that the Committee will achieve its object.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
March 13th, 1892.

33. The *Ulubaria Darpan*, of the 13th March, says that formerly country

The Midnapore Canal revenue.

boats of a very large size used to come into the Midnapore Canal. The number was about one hundred. The smallest among them could carry a cargo of 1,000 maunds. They passed through the lock twice every month, and paid Rs. 30 as toll every time they did so. Thus the income of Government from this boat traffic was Rs. 6,000 a month, or Rs. 72,000 a year. But that income has been considerably affected in consequence of the plying in the canal of steamers and barges belonging to Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Co. Government has entered into an arrangement with the Company, under which steamers carrying cargo, worth 72,000 rupees, have to pay to Government one-fifth of that sum, namely, Rs. 14,400. Its loss, therefore, amounts to Rs. 57,600 per annum. If cargo worth that amount is carried in barges, Government's receipt amounts to Rs. 28,800, and loss to Rs. 43,200. This represents Government's loss in regard to its former income from large-sized country boats. And it can itself calculate its loss from the disappearance of the smaller boats. Not only has Government become a loser, but the native merchants, who trafficked in country boats, have also suffered considerably. After this arrangement, Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Co. have increased the number of their barges, and commenced to take smaller fares for the goods carried in their barges. This has ruined the native boat traffic, and considerably reduced the income of Government. The only way in which this can be remedied is to levy the same duty on all kinds of boats, native and European. The Company may object to an equalisation of the duty by saying that as these steamers and barges remain in the canal for a shorter time than country boats, they are entitled to pay a smaller duty than the owners of native boats. But it should be remembered that the plying in the canal of steamers and barges belonging to the Company causes the canal to silt up much more rapidly than the passage of native boats. This will be proved by the cost of the removal of silt from the canal during the last four years. Again, the barges of the Company are constructed in such a way that, when properly laden, their capacity appears to be smaller than what it really is. Government can ascertain the correctness of this statement by making a reference to Mr. Scotland, its own Canal officer. Increase of duty will not only increase the income of Government, but also revive the native boat traffic thereby making employment for a large class of people. It is the duty of Government to patronise all classes of its subjects equally, and not to shew favour to particular classes or individuals.

(h)—*General.*

PRATIKAR,
March 11th, 1892.

34. The *Pratihar*, of the 11th March, says that thanks to the retrenchment

The proposed abolition of the Lalbagh Sub-division of the Murshidabad District.

policy, arrangements are being made for the abolition of the Lalbagh Sub-division of the Murshidabad district, and the thanas included in that Sub-division will be distributed among the Sadar, the Kandi, and the Jangipur Sub-divisions. The proposed measure will entail great hardship on the people of Lalbagh, as the Sub-division is large both in extent and population, and is situated at a great distance from the Sadar. It is to be regretted that Government should apply its shears to a sub-division containing important places like Murshidabad, Azimganj, Jiaganj and Baluchar. Protests are being made and petitions are being submitted to Government against the proposed abolition, but Government seems indifferent to them.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 15th, 1892.

35. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that last year the Lieutenant-Governor personally visited the breaches in the

The breach in the embankment of the Damodar at Telá.

embankment of the Damodar. The sight must have pained His Honour; otherwise he would not have ordered the breach at Lakhra to be closed. The people of Lakhra are now

safe. But the breach at Telá has not been closed. Last year this breach caused very great mischief. It has jeopardized the existence of some 60 to 70 villages. During the rainy season the water running through this breach is as voluminous as the Damodar itself. Directly a portion of the river-bed becomes full, the water escapes though the breach with terrible force, submerging fields, villages, &c., and the people of the villages near it have to take care of their lives and property. These villages present a deplorable sight during the rains, and the writer is sorry that Government has taken no steps to close the breach. It is said that the Lieutenant-Governor ordered all the important breaches to be closed. If so, how is it that the breach at Telá has not been closed? It cannot be believed that His Honour has been partial in his distribution of favour. The authorities are surely aware that the breach at Telá is not a whit inferior, as regards its power of doing mischief, to the breach at Lakhra. Two or three months hence the Damodar will assume its fearful form, and unless some remedy is adopted in the meanwhile, the people there will be subjected to renewed sufferings. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore urgently entreated to enquire into the matter, and to pass an order for closing the breach at Telá.

36. The *Navayuga*, of the 17th March, says that after becoming Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Elliott, if he has done nothing else, has at least introduced changes in many matters. The writer does not, however,

The Lalbagh Sub-division of the Murshidabad district.

think that a love of change is a necessary qualification for good government, or that the changes which are being introduced in quick succession by the present Lieutenant-Governor will do any good to the people. On the contrary, he thinks that these changes are likely to do them harm. His Honour having resolved to abolish the Lalbag Sub-division of the Murshidabad district, the people of the sub-division have sent him a memorial protesting against the measure. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will not reject the memorial.

NAVAYUGA,
March 17th, 1892.

37. A correspondent of the same paper thus replies to the letter on the subject of the Baganchra post-office, which appeared in its last issue. (See R. N. P. for week ending 19th March paragraph 34):—

The Baganchra post-office.

1. The post office at Baganchra was removed to Haripur, not on account of the smallness of its income as stated in the letter. It was removed on the suspicion that the post-master had embezzled postal money.

2. The Baganchra post office has sufficient income, and is situated in a central spot. And even those who protest against the removal of the post office to Baganchra admit that, though Government has been a loser by the removal, yet the public are benefited by it.

3. The statement in the letter that the removal of the post office has done no harm to anybody is correct.

NAVAYUGA.

38. The *Banganivasi*, of the 18th March, says that with a view to retrenchment of expenditure, the Lieutenant-Governor has abolished the graded system of pay from the clerical departments of the offices under his control.

The Bengal Excise Commissionership.

But Government will, on no account, interfere with the salaries of big European officials. Take, for instance, the post of the Excise Commissioner, which, at the time of its creation, was declared by the Secretary of State, to be a temporary post which should last only for three years. The three years will be completed in April next, but nothing is yet heard about its abolition, although retrenchment is going on in all directions. There appears to be no necessity for maintaining this post, the functions attached to it having been, before its creation, discharged by the Board of Revenue, and being fully capable of being discharged by the Board in future. Thus, Rs. 36,000 per annum is being spent for nothing. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to think over this matter.

BANGANIVASI,
March 18th, 1892.

The Fulda Chandmari.

March:—

The artillery practice at the *Chandmari* in the Fulda Fort took place this year on the 11th and 12th February last. But people were put to greater inconvenience on account of it this year than they were in any preceding year. In previous years the people of the villages into which balls were expected to fall

39. The following is an extract from a petition published in the *Bangavasi*, of the 19th

BANGAVASI,
March 19th, 1892.

left their homes with their cattle, and after staying for five or six hours, each of the two *Chandmari* days in some neighbouring village, returned to their homes in the evening. But at the last *Chandmari* the people of two and a half times as many villages as used to be affected by the *Chandmari* in previous years, were compelled by the police to leave their homes, and the police said that such was the order they had received. The people were frightened. They must cross the river and go to a distance of some four or five miles. That was very serious indeed. The police hurried them out of their homes. Men, women, boys, girls and cattle, came out of each village in large numbers. The whole air began to resound with the cries of the children and the lowing of cattle. Many goats and cows and women too were attacked with travail on their painful journey. May Heaven keep even one's enemy from such misery! The police drove the people to a distance of six or seven miles, and kept guard over them.

This *Chandmari* has been taking place for the last six or seven years, and people have been suffering all this time on account of it. But no one has brought the matter to the notice of the authorities. The fault cannot, therefore, be laid at the door of Government, who, if they had known of the sufferings of the people, would certainly have taken steps to prevent or remove them. The petitioners submit—

- (1) That they have no objection to the *Chándmári* taking place every year, as it takes place only for two days in the year; but the shots ought to be carefully directed into the bed of the river.
- (2) That, as shown in the *Chándmári* chart, the *Chándmári* area extends over only one mile from the bank of the river, but people are driven out of villages lying within four or five miles of the *Chándmári*.
- (3) That the shots being, as a rule, directed southward, from the mouth of the Damodar river, they fail to see the necessity of villages lying within an area of nine or ten miles in length, and three or four miles in breadth, towards the north, being cleared of men and cattle.
- (4) That the clearance area has been unnecessarily extended this year. The police say that this has been done by order of the authorities. But the petitioners cannot believe this, there being no chance of harm over such an area, and the *Chándmári* experiments being conducted on the same scale as in previous years.
- (5) That in previous years the area cleared having been one mile to the north, and the same distance to the south, people could easily go over to the neighbouring villages, remaining there for five or six hours and return home in the evening. This was no doubt inconvenience to the villagers; but they had to suffer for only two days in the year. But this year the inhabitants of a far larger number of villages were driven out of their homes, and kept like prisoners under charge of the police for four or five days.
- (6). That the petitioners have come to know from a reliable source that the letter forwarded to the police from the Military Department directed shots to be fired only southward from the mouth of the Damodar river, and villages to be cleared of men and cattle as in previous years. The petitioners fail to understand why this order was departed from by the police.

The petitioners hope that the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor will enquire into the matter and remedy the evil.

THE OPPRESSED SUBJECTS.

Dated, thana Syampore, District Howrah, 8th *Fálgun* 1298 (B.S.)

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 21st, 1892.

The Financial Statement.

40. 'The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, has the following:—

It is believed that the next will be a very bad year for all India. Already there is scarcity of food all over the country. The condition of Madras is deplorable; there is severe distress in many parts of the Bombay Presidency;

Rajputana and the Punjab are in fear of an impending scarcity, and distress prevails in Bengal, Bihár and Burma. The price of food-grains is everywhere unusually high.

The Bihár Zamindars' Association rightly petitioned Government for making some provision in the next year's budget for the cost of famine relief. But though there is every probability of a famine visiting the country next year, and the Finance Minister himself admits it, still he has made no such provision. For, Sir David Barbour cherishes the hope that the July rains will improve the prospects of the crops and remove all cause for anxiety. The writer will be happy if this hope is realised. But his own experience brings him no hope: on the contrary, fills him with apprehensions for the future. The experienced zamindars of Bihár have pointed out to Government that the present condition of that province in no way differs from its condition in 1874, when a dire famine made its appearance during Lord Northbrook's administration. The present protracted drought, too, is like that which was witnessed in 1873, and the prices of food-grains are as high now as they were at the period immediately preceding the famine of 1874. The fear of famine will not be removed even if there be good rainfall in June and July. Nor are there good grounds for the expectation that there will be liberal showers in those months. It is not wise or safe to place much reliance on the predictions of meteorology, which is as yet but an imperfect science. In Bihár, Madras, Bombay, Burma, Rajputana, in short, all over India there is more or less acute distress from scarcity of food. The writer cannot expect, nor would be justified in expecting, that there will be good rainfall in all parts of the country in the months of June and July.

When disappointment is, therefore, almost certain, Government should take precautions from this time. The Finance Minister, though he has taken a hopeful view of the situation, is not still completely free from anxiety. But, instead of taking what would be the properest course under these circumstances, namely, making provision for famine relief in the next year's budget, he has apparently thought of meeting famine expenditure, if a famine should actually make its appearance, by loans. This appears from Sir David's statement that Government will not borrow in India next year, though it is not prepared to make any distinct pledges in this connection. The writer thinks that the fear of famine will increase, and Government will find it necessary to borrow in this country.

But instead of trusting to loans to meet probable expenditure on famine relief, the Finance Minister ought to have made retrenchments in all directions and made provision for famine expenditure in his budget. That he has not done so is probably because he found it impossible to reduce expenditure in other directions. But one thing strikes the reader of the Financial Statement, namely, that the one and-a-half crore of rupees which is annually set apart for famine purposes is this year allotted to railways. This ought never to have been done. It is true that British merchants are always pressing for an extension of railways in India, and that the Government of India finds itself obliged, for fear of these merchants, to incur an enormous outlay in the prosecution of railways in this country. But surely saving the people from starvation is a higher duty than extending railway communications. At least half the sum set apart for railways in the budget ought to have been allotted for famine relief, and surely this would have been done if India had been any other country. It does not behove the Government of India to injure this country at the *aid* of the British merchants. It could have safely provided for famine relief in the budget by diverting for that purpose the large sum which has been assigned for railways. The writer cannot believe that the British merchants or Englishmen generally are such utterly bad men, such demons and fiends that they would have shown any unwillingness, or made any opposition to any proposal which might be made by the Government for postponing the work of railway extension for only one year, on the ground that the people of this vast country were threatened with a dire famine.

The military expenditure ought to have been reduced. Even the *Englishman* newspaper is of this opinion. The saving thus effected might have been set apart for famine purposes. For famine is a more dreadful enemy than Russia. A famine kills more men than are ever likely to be killed in a war.

with Russia. A famine is imminent, but there is no knowing when, if ever, Russia will come to this country.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 23rd, 1892.

41. Referring to the Provincial contracts entered into in the present year, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd March,

The Provincial contracts.

says that the terms of the contracts clearly show what powers have been left in the hands of the Provincial Governments. Everybody will see in these contracts a tendency to tie down the hands of the Provincial Governors more and more tightly. The financial position of these Governors is becoming worse year after year, as the measure of their dependence on the Supreme Government is increasing. And this is called Provincial freedom as the *Decentralisation Policy* of Lord Mayo. If what is taking place now is freedom, what will want of freedom mean?

III—LEGISLATIVE.

SUDHAKAR,
March 18th, 1892.

42. The *Sudhakar*, of the 18th March, thanks Government for the amendment of the Court of Wards Act, which was prompted, no doubt, by a commendable desire to improve the law and its *modus operandi*. In this connection, the writer would suggest to Government to make some provision for bringing under Government management the estates of the zamindars who are wasting their property. This will save the Muhammadan zamindars of Bengal, in particular, from utter ruin. Unless Government does something in this direction, all the big Muhammadan estates in Bengal will disappear before another quarter of a century.

PRAKRITI,
March 19th, 1892.

43. The *Prakriti*, of the 19th March, says that the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss's speech in connection with the Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act has deeply grieved the writer. A world of mischief will be done to owners of land, and there will be no end to *zulm* by Government, if the Bill is passed into law. Under the provisions of the new Bill, a Judge, unassisted by assessors, will fix the value of land, and the expenses of a trial will, in no case, be borne by Government. It goes without saying that a law of this nature will be very unjust. Even if the Collector's assessment be not satisfactory, people will, in many cases, submit to it, in order to avoid costly litigation. There are many other objectionable provisions in the Bill.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 20th, 1892.

The Land Acquisition Act
Amendment Bill.

44. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th March, has the following:—

The Land Acquisition Act of 1857 was amended after a trial of 13 years, during which period the fact was made patent to Government that it could, without any difficulty, take possession of other people's lands whenever it might wish to do so. The Act of 1870 has now been in force for 22 years; and Government has perceived during this time that it can, without any difficulty, extend, by means of legislation, the facilities which it at present enjoys in connection with land acquisition.

That Government can do this without any difficulty goes without saying. For its loyal Indian subjects will bow in submission to its every wish and act. But Government should nevertheless, on its part, look to the interests of its subjects, as it is indeed bound to do. This is admitted by Mr. Bliss, the member in charge of the Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act. Mr. Bliss says: "The sovereign or the Government is the representative of the subjects. By Government is to be understood the subjects in their collective capacity, and nothing else. What is good for the Government is also good for the subjects; consequently, the subjects should also agree to whatever leads to a saving of Government's expenditure, to whatever leads to Government's convenience in the purchase of land." It is by arguments like these that Mr. Bliss would secure public support for his measure.

Now, everybody will be glad to read this statement made by Mr. Bliss of the doctrine of popular government. And the writer for his part is thankful to Mr. Bliss for making the statement, although he is aware that the system of government obtaining in England is not the same as that obtaining in this country, and that the Indian Government is an entity, separate and distinct from the Indian people. Nor will he blame the Hon'ble Member for having shewn an utter disregard for this doctrine on the occasion of the Consent Bill agitation. But it is impossible to accept or agree to what Mr. Bliss says in

connection with the Land Acquisition Bill. As a purchaser, there is and can never be any difference between Government and an ordinary person, and in acquiring another's land, Government must follow the procedure which is followed by any ordinary purchaser. This is the rule in all countries.

Mr. Bliss will never be able to establish the principle that "because Government is taking up this land, a small price should be charged for it." In taking up a person's land Government must pay the price which a private individual taking up the same land would pay for it. As it is, the Land Acquisition Act confers extraordinary powers upon Government in taking up land for public purposes. Government, for instance, is taking up, whenever it is so minded, any person's land even against his wish. The additional compensation of 15 per cent. allowed by it in such cases is not too much, considering that private parties find it necessary to pay, in similar circumstances, a compensation which is several times the fair price of the land intended to be taken up. The facility (the additional compensation of 15 per cent.), which is already enjoyed by Government is, therefore, considerable, and ought not to be increased any further.

It behoves Government also to consult the interests of the people. Mr. Bliss says that "Government is nothing but the subjects in their collective capacity, and that whatever, therefore, does good to Government does good to the subjects also." But if Government is 'the subjects in their collective capacity,' every subject is a part of Government, and Government should look to the welfare of the subject. Everybody, of course, knows that the subjects gain in proportion as the public expenditure is kept within strict limits. But nobody should on that account be allowed to injure any individual—for that is sanctioned neither by morality nor by politics.

It is well that the provision regarding the grant of an additional compensation of 15 per cent. is being retained in the Bill, but the omission of the provision regarding the grant of interest on the amount of the compensation is open to grave objection. Mr. Bliss says: "That compensation is not paid at the time possession is taken is due to the default of the persons interested in the land. Government is not, therefore, bound to pay interest." This is not equitable. Objections are raised and delay takes place only in those cases in which the persons interested in the land do not agree to the Collector's award. Surely, in such cases Government is bound to pay interest.

It is almost certain that nobody who was not extremely poor and helpless would at once agree to take the price tendered to him by the Collector, however unfair that price might be, and those that do so seem to be guided by the principle that they should make the best of a bad bargain. It is because the great majority of the Indian people are of a quiet and inoffensive disposition that the Collector finds it possible to act in a high-handed manner. In acquiring land for the Kidderpore Docks and the Central Road, the Collector acted most oppressively towards all those poor proprietors whose lands were taken up for those works. Again, when land was taken up for railway purposes near Barasat, the Land Acquisition Collector found it easier to oppress a large number of helpless widows than the zamindars and talukdars who were proprietors of some of the lands taken up. It is clear that, whenever objection is made to the Collector's award, the party making it is not a poor man, and the fact is the Collector's award is seldom, if ever, equitable.

Under the existing law, when the Collector's award is set aside by the Judge, Government has to pay the costs of the opposite party. This has been the case with most of the suits decided by the Judge of the 24-Parganas in connection with the acquisition of land for the Kidderpore Docks and the Central Road. And the justice done in these cases has given satisfaction to the public. But this, it is feared, has annoyed Government, and led it to hastily introduce the present Bill which contains the objectionable provision, that "the Collector shall have power to make an award which shall be binding on all concerned, both as to the amount and as to the apportionment of the compensation, unless altered by the decree of a competent court in a regular suit."

45. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, has the following:—

The Land Acquisition Act
Amendment Bill.

We cannot approve of this one-sided law by which Government is creating for itself all possible

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 21st, 1892.

facilities for the acquisition of land. "The price fixed by the Collector shall be final." Such an oppressive provision will not be tolerated in any other country. And yet Mr. Bliss, who would see it enacted, has himself told us that Government is nothing but "the subjects in their collective capacity." Mr. Bliss adds: "I know no reason why an executive officer should not be as careful and as just a man as a judicial officer; and if the Collector is appointed, and may be removed, by the Local Government, the same may be said of every District Judge in the country." To this the reply is: "The Judge is a better judicial officer than the Collector. Just as the Judge sets aside any wrong decision passed by the Collector in his magisterial capacity in a criminal case, so he sets aside any wrong decision passed by the Collector in a civil suit, in awarding, for instance, compensation for land taken up for public purposes. The Judge is as much a Government servant as the Magistrate. Then, why does the one do injustice and the other justice? Considering that it is the Judge who does justice in all criminal cases in which the Magistrate's decisions are wrong and in all civil suits in which the Collector's decisions are wrong, it only stands to reason that the same officer will do justice in all land acquisition cases which the Collector may have decided wrongly."

There can be no doubt that the Judge is a better judicial officer than the Collector. Being an interested party in all land acquisition proceedings, being, in fact, the party which fixes the price and takes up the land as a purchaser, it is almost impossible for the Collector to act with impartiality in such cases. With the Judge the case is different. He has not the least concern with the acquisition of land, and is therefore able to act with independence and impartiality. It is difficult to see how Mr. Bliss can assign to the Collector a position of equality with the Judge in this matter. It would be no wonder if the Hon'ble Member were next to propose that the Magistrate being as much a Government servant as the Judge, the former should be empowered to pass final decisions in all criminal cases, and that in such cases no appeal should lie to the Judge. And men like Mr. Bliss are entrusted with the duty of making laws for the twenty eight crores of the Indian people, and compose the Government of the country!

Mr. Bliss says:—"The person interested appoints an assessor, who is virtually pledged beforehand to endeavour to protect and advance his interests. The Collector's assessor is under no such understanding, it is true, but is very probably indisposed to go against the Collector." Mr. Bliss can doubtless from his seat in the Legislative Council abuse the entire respectable native community with impunity. "Those that sit by the side of the Judge as assessors on behalf of private parties are biassed and unrighteous men." This is a statement which the Hon'ble Member can indeed safely make from his place in the Indian Legislative Council. But could he have dared to do so in England?

It is only educated and experienced men of high moral character that are appointed as assessors. And are the Judges really so dull witted that they cannot perceive the worthlessness of an assessor? When the judge can, under the law, refuse to accept the opinion of an incompetent assessor, why has Mr. Bliss, by questioning the honesty and ability of the assessors, cast reflections on the Judges too? The writer has frequently noticed that the official members of the Legislative Council are in the habit of making very bold statements, but he did not know that Mr. Bliss's boldness exceeded all bounds.

Mr. Bliss says that the Collector's assessor does not lean on Government's side, but the writer has found that he leans too much, and the fact is well known to all those vakils who were engaged by the claimants in the land acquisition cases tried by the Judge of the 24-Parganas. There can be no doubt that by condemning the present system of appointing assessors in such cases, Mr. Bliss has shown himself in the light of an ignorant man given to making reckless and irresponsible statements.

The provision of the Bill referring claimants to the regular civil courts of the country is clearly intended to prevent the latter from appealing against the Collector's decision. For such appeals will prove very costly. Matters will thus be rendered extremely easy for Government, and there will be no end of oppression of poor people. The writer can never approve of a law which will favour *zulm* so much.

46. The *Hindi Bangavasi*, of the 21st March, disapproves of the proposed amendment of the Land Acquisition Act, as calculated to increase litigation. The law of the English Government on this subject seems to be a very

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 21st, 1892.

The proposed amendment of
the Land Acquisition Act.

unjust one, considering that there is no country in the world where a man cannot sell his own property at his own price. Valuation of lands by panchayats seems to be the best method of ascertaining the value of lands.

47. Referring to the Puna case under the Consent Act, the same paper says that the Act has commenced to bear poisonous fruit for the Hindus. It seems that Government does not mind seriously wounding the hearts of its

HINDI BANGAVASI.

The Puna case under the Con-
sent Act.

Hindu subjects.

Oppression under the Consent
Act.

48. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 22nd March, remarks as follows in the course of an article headed oppression under the Consent Act:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 22nd, 1892.

A case under the Consent Act recently occurred at Puna in Bombay. One Atmaram Raghunath, of the blacksmith caste, married the daughter of one Sadasiva, two years before the Consent Act was passed. His wife, Chandrabhaga, menstruated before the Act was passed, and he cohabited with her in accordance with the injunction of the Hindu religion. Shortly after this, Sadasiva laid a complaint under the new Act against his son-in-law before the Magistrate of Puna. As the complainant was the father of the girl, the Magistrate had no option but to accept it. But the girl's deposition shewed that the case was false, and Atmaram was let off by the Magistrate. The girl said to many people, before the case was instituted, that her father was of a very bad character, that he had taken all her ornaments and that he cherished a grudge against herself and her husband. The institution of this case has fulfilled the writer's prediction made during the Consent Bill agitation that many people would take advantage of the Act to prosecute their sons-in-law out of pure malice. Immediately after the passing of the Act, a Mussulman residing in the Ranagat subdivision of the Nadia district, tried to get his son-in-law punished with its help, but failed in his purpose, because the Magistrate of Nadia dismissed his case. But what did not happen in Nadia has happened in Bombay, and Atmaram has been sent to jail by the Sessions Judge of Puna.

The girl Chandrabhaga said both before the Magistrate and the Sessions Judge that at the time of her marriage she had heard her parents say that she was 11. Now the case against her husband has been instituted two years after her marriage. She said before the Judge that she was 14 years old, and that her husband did not perform the *garbhadhan* ceremony. She did not attach the least blame to her husband, and from the first condemned the conduct of her parents. The Judge has nevertheless punished her husband. The writer had said before that the wicked Act would lead to such acts of oppression. Two European doctors and one European female doctor have deposed before the Judge that Chandrabhaga's age did not exceed 11, and that her husband had had intercourse with her. But Chandrabhaga herself persisted throughout the proceedings in saying that she was 14, and that her husband had held no intercourse with her. And can that be a just law, which punishes the husband of a girl in the face of such assertions on her part?

How could the doctors, male and female, say in the face of the girl's statement that she was 14, that her age was just 12, and not a day above 12? Before the Consent Act was passed, the writer said that medical testimony as regards age could not be accepted as conclusive, and he still sticks to that opinion. The law has fixed an age limit, and the trial of the case has consequently turned on the question of the girl's exact age, and resulted in a failure of justice. English philanthropists asked for the law in the interest of Indian women, and the interest of Indian women was also the cue taken up by the Viceroy, and his Councillors and by the Babus. But the writer is unable to see what good has been done to Chandrabhaga by sending her husband to jail.

Chandrabhaga's father deposed that her daughter had said to her brother that intercourse by her husband caused her much pain, and that she had fever in consequence of the pain. But Chandrabhaga denied that she had said anything of the kind to her brother. And as regards European Judges, they may believe her father's statement on this point, but no Hindu will believe it, for no

Hindu girl will make such a communication to her brother. The result of the trial has alarmed the Hindu community all over India; for what has happened at Puna may happen everywhere. The tree of poison has begun to bear poisonous fruits, and there is not the least doubt that these fruits will gradually increase in number. Can there be any doubt that fathers of the type of Chandrabhaga's father will take the help of the law with the view of getting their sons-in-law punished?

Like the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the writer is at a loss to see how the case, which was rejected by the Magistrate, came to be tried by the Sessions Judge. This mystery will no doubt be cleared up, but the writer is concerned not with the manner in which the law is administered but with the law itself. Nothing can prevent a bad law from producing bad results. After the issue of the Consent Act circular by the Viceroy, people thought that the new law would do no harm, but the result of this prosecution has shown that that was a groundless supposition. If the tree of poison is allowed to remain, it must, sooner or later, bring forth poisonous fruits. It is therefore the duty of the people to do their best to get the law abolished, and they should therefore help Mr. Pincott and others in this direction. By remaining indifferent in this matter, the Hindu community is incurring sin. People should bear in mind that what has happened to Atmaram may happen to themselves, too.

V—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

49. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th March, has received information that there is hardly a place in the mufassal which does not suffer from scarcity of water, and cholera, in an epidemic form, has therefore broken out in many places. In some villages, more than half the population have succumbed to the disease. In many places, again, people are procuring one meal a day with great difficulty. Madras, Bombay, the North-Western Provinces, are very nearly in this deplorable condition.

Though what Government officers call famine has not yet made its appearance, yet this much is certain, that a good many places are suffering from scarcity of food and water in a severe form. Such a state of things has always been the result of a failure of the rains. The writer, therefore, asks Government to order the District Boards and Municipalities to re-excavate silted up rivers, khals and tanks, and to excavate new tanks in places where there are none. Government should help those bodies with money, for the undertaking will be a costly one, and cannot be done by them without its help.

NAVAYUGA,
March 17th, 1892.

50. The *Navayuga*, of the 17th March, says that this year the country is not only suffering from scarcity of food and water, but also from scarcity of fodder. As regards scarcity of water, people in the mufassal are suffering terribly from it. All large tanks have dried up, and people are compelled to use dirty water. As a consequence, cholera has broken out, and is depopulating the villages. In a country where people frequently suffer from scarcity of food and water, and from outbreaks of cholera and malaria, and where cattle have been reduced to skeletons in consequence of scarcity of fodder, in such a country as this, what good can be done by introducing the representative system of Government or by reforming the Legislative Councils? Again, considering that the condition of a people depends entirely on the actions of their rulers, one feels inclined to doubt whether the rulers of a country whose people suffer so many ills really pursue the policy which is most conducive to the interests of the latter.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

PRATIKAR,
March 11th, 1892.

51. The *Pratihar*, of the 11th March, says that this year, the New Year's day honours were mostly conferred on deserving men. And if this method of honouring really deserving men is continued, the public will have little cause to be dissatisfied with Government.

Among the recipients of the honours, there were two who obtained Rai Bahadurships for distinguished Municipal services. They are Babu Taraprasad Mukharji of Revelganj, and Babu Iswar Chandra Sil of Dacca. Most people

will be glad to see them honoured by Government, though they are not much known in this part of the province. The Lieutenant-Governor said that, by honouring these two men, Government wanted to disabuse the minds of the public that Local Self-Government had not the sympathy of Government, and that the authorities were aiming a blow at it by the amended Municipal Bill. This ought to re-assure the people.

52. The *Hitakari*, of the 12th March, says that an illegal impost of one anna in the rupee is exacted from the boatmen in Kushtia on the amount of the fare for which they hire out their boats. This impost is called the

An illegal exaction of the zamindar in Kushtia.

khutagari, and it is levied by a *ghat manjhi*, who is an employé of the zamindar. It is necessary for the Deputy Magistrate to make an enquiry into the matter, and put a stop to it.

HITAKARI,
March 12th, 1892.

Government's duty to educated natives.

53. The *Sanjivani*, of the 12th March, has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
March 12th 1892.

What will Government do with the large number of natives who are every year turned out by the Indian Universities? Government need not, of course, give itself any trouble on account of those among them who enter its service. For these men, if they can serve Government with credit, will be duly promoted in the service and rewarded, and on their retirement into private life, will be enabled, by means of the pension which will be given them, to spend the remaining portion of their life in ease and comfort. But what should Government do with those educated natives who do not enter its service?

Will Government listen to the advice of the *Pioneer* and those dull-witted Englishmen who share the *Pioneer's* views, and regard these educated and intelligent men, possessed of influence in their respective communities, as secret enemies of the Government and keep them at a distance by means of contemptuous treatment? Or will Government seek to make them its own friends and well-wishers by utilising in some way or other their education and intelligence in the administration of the country, and by securing their love and good-will by treating them with kindness and generosity?

There can be no doubt that the second course is the one which will commend itself to the judgment of every right-minded and far-sighted statesman. If Government cannot hit upon an expedient by which it can utilise in the administration of the country the energies of the thousands of Indians who are, year after year, turned out by the different provincial Universities in this vast empire, and if it cannot bind them to itself by conferring upon them honours and rewards, all the strength born of their intelligence, learning, and social position will be combined and arrayed for the purpose of effecting reforms in the administration of the country. That such a result is possible is shown by the establishment of the National Congress, whose small beginnings, like a speck of cloud in the eastern sky, have become a cause of anxiety to the rulers. And so, if the advice of Englishmen of the *Pioneer* school is acted upon, this anxiety will deepen into positive fear when, for the thousands who now support the Congress movement, there will be hundreds of thousands flocking to and serving it with enthusiasm.

It is for this reason that we consider Lord Ripon to have been the wisest among Anglo-Indian statesmen. It was Lord Ripon, who for the purpose of securing the co-operation of educated natives in the work of administration, first raised the question of conferring upon them powers of Local Self-Government and the elective franchise in municipalities. And it is owing to him that educated natives have received certain small privileges in that direction. The object aimed at by Lord Ripon has been in some measure attained by the introduction of the elective system in the Municipalities, and by the establishment of District Boards, village punchayets, and independent benches of Magistrates. But the men whom the public would like to see upon these Boards and benches, the men, that is, who, by their learning, intelligence and character, command public respect, are not, in all cases, coming forward to serve the country. It is said that no one among the able and influential Europeans in Calcutta is willing to offer himself for election as a representative of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce at the forthcoming municipal elections. One great reason of this unwillingness is that the Anglo-Indians are not much attached to this

country, and do not therefore care to devote time and attention to the question of local improvements. There are also other reasons, such, for instance, as the Anglo-Indian's dislike of the large powers and responsibilities vested in the Municipal Commissioners, and the fact that the majority of the Commissioners are and will long continue to be natives, and that European Commissioners are, in most cases, outvoted by the former.

As regards the people of this country, the number of their really best men, who are willing to serve as Municipal Commissioners, is very small. And the great majority of such men do not at all care to serve in that capacity, for the simple reason that they have not sufficient inducement to do so. Those among them who are men of business are not willing to spend their valuable time in work which brings them no pecuniary return. And even if a Municipal Commissionership carried any salary with it, the office would have little attraction for men of independent means. The office would indeed have some attraction for such men, if it could give its holder anything like the social position and prestige which is enjoyed by members of Parliament. But the members of Municipalities, District Boards, Village Panchayets, and similar bodies enjoy no such position or prestige. Lord Ripon's scheme of Local Self-government, however, included the idea of conferring honour and titles of distinction on the members of self-governing bodies.

Be that as it may, there can be no doubt that it is only by endeavouring to secure the love and good-will of the educated natives that the higher officials of Government can act in a truly statesman-like manner. The rulers seem to have got a notion that the educated natives are secretly becoming disloyal to Government. It is a perfectly erroneous notion, and the sooner it is dismissed as such, the better for the country. The fact is, educated natives see both the good and the bad points in the English administration. They have read history and they know from what anarchy and internal dissensions the British Government has delivered the people of this country, and they appreciate the blessings of peace and good government, which the British Government has conferred upon them. They know that subjection to any native race will be a thousand times worse than their present subjection to the English people. They know that English rule is a hundred times better than the rule of any other foreign people can be. They know that under no other Government would the people of India have so many and such fine opportunities of learning the work of self-government. They are therefore all of them at heart friends and well-wishers of the British Government; and it behoves the British Government to bind them to itself more strongly than ever by means of kind and friendly treatment. There are two ways in which this can be done. First, by an extension of the system of Local Self-government: by honouring and rewarding those who help Government in this matter; and by holding periodical durbars at which members of Municipalities, District Boards, Benches of Magistrates, and Village Panchayets will be given seats of honour by District Magistrates. Secondly, by cultivating friendly relations with the vernacular newspapers which are the mouth-pieces of the educated natives. This object can be gained by giving them advice, supplying them with official information, consulting them in public matters, and occasionally inviting their editors to parties at Government House, and conversing with them on all questions of public importance.

54. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th March, has the following:—

SAHACHAR,
March 16th, 1892.

Government in accordance with
the spirit of the times.

A Government which is suitable to a people in
one stage of development becomes unsuitable to them
when they outgrow that stage. There was a time when the people of Germany,
as well as of India, were highly satisfied with their respective Governments.

For centuries, Germany was disunited, and formed the seat of European warfare. But all that has been changed within recent years, and the country has secured quite a unique position in Europe through the efforts of Prince Bismarck and others. For some years, the people of Germany were dazzled by these achievements of their rulers. Similarly, in India, the first acts of the English, which brought order and security into the country, gave very great satisfaction to the people, who looked upon these rulers with awe and reverence. With the lapse of time, however, both Germany and India have outgrown their first stage of order and prosperity, and entered upon a new era of development. But the Governments of the two countries have not been able to keep pace with the general

improvement and still remain patriarchal. And this has given rise to discontent in both the countries. The other day, the Emperor William made a strange speech at Brandenburgh. The writer had never thought that any ruler in these days could have the courage to utter such words as the Emperor William uttered on that occasion. The Emperor expressed himself to the following effect: "It has unfortunately become a custom with some people to condemn every act of Government. As a consequence, an element of bitterness has been imported into the happiness which the country hitherto enjoyed. These people should leave the country. If his subjects have faith in God and him, he will soon bring back peace and happiness into the country." Now as regards India. Here the Bengalis are being kept down everywhere, simply because they discuss political matters more than any other people in the country." A Eurasian of Portuguese descent is entitled to Government employment in any place within India, but the Bengalis who are permanent residents of the country are not entitled to any employment under Government in Bihár. Government does not indeed tell Bengalis and the educated men to leave the country, but it asks them to remain content with the existing order of things. Neither the rulers of India nor of Germany have learnt to modify their policy, so as to suit it to the spirit of the times and the increased knowledge and intelligence of the people. Emperor William says that he will rule absolutely in the name of God, and will not allow the people to have any voice in the administration of his country. In his opinion, the Empire consists of his own self alone. As regards India, in his reply to the demand of the Congress, Lord Salisbury has said with the flippancy of ignorance—"You are Asiatics, and therefore unfit for representative government." Like William he, too, will not recognize the spirit and the wants of the times. Both of them are mistaken. The government of a civilized people is a very difficult task. Hitherto the Prussian dynasty have ruled with the help of the bayonet, but their contest with the people have now begun in earnest. But the English system of government is wholly different from the German, and the writer hopes that Lord Salisbury will abandon his opinion. He is only an ordinary subject of the Queen, and the decision of the question whether or not the people of India should get representative government should rest with the people of England. Fortunately, there is no difference of opinion between the people of India and the royal family of England, and the former will get what they want by dint of reasoning and argument. But in Germany popular discontent is likely to lead to bloodshed. The eyes of the people have been opened, and the people of both Germany and India want to have a share in the administration of their respective countries. Neither the soldiers of William nor the *ipsi dixit* of Lord Salisbury will be able to keep out the one people or the other from their natural rights.

55. The following is an extract from an article in the *Sudhakar*, of the 18th March, entitled "Learn Self-reliance":—

Self-reliance among Muhammadans.

We advise the Mussulmans to learn Self-reliance. From the day they ceased to possess this virtue, their fall has been inevitable. And the more they have fallen, the more they have forgotten the great virtue of self-reliance. English education has called into existence in this country a class of men characterized by independence of thought and feeling, but most people see that there is not a single Mahammadan in this class. Those belonging to this class are the ornaments of the educated community, and are characterized by great self-reliance and self-respect. Never relying on others, and possessing strength of mind in an uncommon measure, these men have raised themselves to very high stations in life, and have done much good to the Society to which they belong. To do good to their countrymen seems to be their one most ardent desire. It is to these men that the National Congress owes its origin, and the Tarakeswar-Mugra railway scheme has proceeded from them. It is owing also to these men that the Bengal Spinning and Weaving Company, the Titaghur Glass Foundry and a Foundry for the manufacture of Brass-ware have been established. Some steamer lines have also been proposed by them. Several newspapers conducted by these men have been doing immense good to the country by bringing to public notice the oppressions which are committed by high-handed officials, and by the tea planters. Their agitation of these matters has made things much better than they were some time ago. And it is the presence of a handful of these men on the municipal, the district, and the Local

SUDHAKAR,
March 18th, 1892.

Boards, that has prevented Local Self-government in the country from falling a prey to the selfishness of mean-minded men.

Necessity prompts men to action, and teaches them self-reliance. But even the thousand-and-one wants of the Muhammadans have failed to teach them either diligence or self-reliance. The leaders of the Muhammadan community are themselves too much laden with their work of flattery to be able to try the effects of self-reliance. They are ever and anon crying to Government at the top of their voice for "mercy" and "favour." It cannot be doubted that the Muhammadans are fit objects of favour, and it is certain that high-minded Hindus will not deny this. But is it not the duty of the Muhammadans to learn self-reliance while in receipt of favours from Government? Do they not foresee that as 'slaves of mercy and favour' their utter degeneracy cannot be far off? Let them first do everything in their power to help themselves, and then ask Government to help them.

BANGAVASI,
March 19th, 1892.

56. The *Bangavási*, of the 19th March, has the following:—

The English people cannot bear to see the sufferings of others. This is, at least, the pretext they make whenever there is occasion for them to usurp other people's possessions. The English people and the famine in Russia. The Khedive of Egypt was unable to maintain peace in his own dominions, and the English therefore came to his help with an adequate force. Theebaw, the King of Burmah, was a tyrant, of whom the Burmese people had grown sick. The English therefore took Theebaw's country in order to establish peace and prosperity within it. The ruler of Sikkim was incapable of ruling his dominions, and the English at once came to his help. In this way the English make their appearance wherever there is oppression. And the history of the English people, as written by Englishmen, bears testimony to many such cases. But recently the English have shown themselves somewhat wanting in the exercise of this virtue. A terrible famine is just now raging in Russia. The English know of the distress, but their sympathetic heart has made no response to the distressful cry. The Lord Mayor of London lately computed that a subscription of four crores of rupees might do something in the way of partially alleviating the distress, and called for subscriptions. But, strange to say, in England, the very father-land of the rich English people, not more than a thousand or twelve hundred rupees could be collected. It is for the English people themselves to explain this mysterious want of sympathy on such an occasion.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 21st, 1892.

57. The *Hindi Bangavási*, of the 21st March, says that the abolition of the paddy tax in Ceylon is matter for anxiety to the Indians.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 21st, 1892.

58. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, says that the object of the fresh enquiries recently made by the Secretary of State regarding the working of the

The Indian cloth industry. Indian cloth mills is doubtless to wreck the newly established cloth industry of this country. It is to be hoped that the Viceroy will, at least for once, act with independence, and with an eye to the good of India. No Viceroy will ever be able to consult the true interests of this country and save it from injury, if the Government of India has to carry out implicitly all the orders of the Secretary of State. The writer has Sir Edwin Arnold's authority for saying that this view is shared by the Duke of Connaught. The writer is sure that if the Viceroy remains firm, and is resolved upon doing good to India, the Home Government can never compel the Indian Government to carry out its unjust orders.

URIYA PAPERS.

59. The native papers of Orissa are not satisfied with the declared policy of Government that a permanent settlement of its revenue would not be granted to Orissa after the expiry of the period of the present settlement, and they are of opinion that the percentage of cultivated lands in that province is sufficient to warrant the adoption of a permanent settlement.

60. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 2nd March, is sorry to find that theft of question papers set by the Calcutta University is causing needless trouble to candidates, who have been required to undergo a second examination

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
March 2nd, 1892.

Theft of University examination papers.

for no fault of theirs. The writer suggests that a sifting enquiry ought to be made with the object of finding out the real culprits.

Theft and dacoity in the Baleswar district.

61. The same paper is of opinion that theft and dacoity are on the increase in the Baleswar district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
March 2nd, 1892.

62. The *Samvadvahika*, of the 3rd March, and the *Utkaldipika*, of the 5th March, are clearly of opinion that there will be general scarcity of food in the Orissa Province in the near future, and that the authorities should be prepared for the crisis.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
March 3rd, 1892.
AND
UTKALDIPIKA,
March 5th, 1892.

Hindu polygamy.

63. The *Samvadvahika*, of the 3rd March, proposes a legislative prohibition of Hindu polygamy.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
March 3rd, 1892.

ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Silchar*, of the 7th March, has the following in the course of an article headed: "Is this the way in which Government wishes to teach morality"?—

SILCHAR,
March 7th, 1892.

The administration of cattle-pounds in Assam.

Now-a-days, boys and girls, young men and young women, old men and old women, have all taken to evil ways, and one hears of nothing but 'wickedness' on all sides. As all men have become wicked, it is no wonder that one should see bad conduct, bad morality, bad action, and bad religion everywhere. What hopes of improvement can that country have which contains within it wickedness in so many shapes and forms? But being the protectors of the people's morality and religion, the rulers of the country have taken upon themselves the task of re-establishing righteousness in place of the prevailing wickedness. Henceforth morality will be taught in schools and colleges, and provision has been made for inflicting bodily, mental and pecuniary punishments for disobeying moral instructions. There is no lack of punishments under English rule. Punishments consisting of whipping, imprisonment, residence in *hajat*, &c., have been provided for all possible offences, including that of having intercourse with one's own wife, &c. People have, indeed, been harassed with punishments. But Government being the *maik* of the country can do what it likes. But who is to punish it if it goes wrong itself? The son cannot punish his father: it is enough if he can only warn his father of his shortcoming. Now to the important point. In Bengal, cattle-pounds are sold by auction, and Government has consequently no connection with them. But in Assam, cattle-pounds are Government's *khas* property, and are administered by the police—by a class of officers, that is, at whose hands even human beings, not to speak of animals, meet with violent death. Under the rules, a fine of 4 or 8 annas is levied per head of cattle impounded, and 2 annas is charged per head as cost of feed. But the cattle impounded are nevertheless kept without food. The pound-keepers, who are supposed to look after the cattle, do nothing besides confining them in pounds, and letting them off on receipt of fine. They generally work at the house of some Babu, and dine there. They have consequently no time to look after the cattle in the pounds, which are kept in a dying state without food and water, upon an accumulation of urine and excrement. Though there are Hindus among these policemen, no one takes pity on these animals. The Deputy Commissioner is urgently entreated to look at the administration of the pounds. It is also hoped that the Hindus of Silchar will convene a meeting in order to devise remedial measures.

65. The same paper says that Cachar being a hilly district, people here are obliged to keep fire-arms in order to protect themselves against wild animals. They have to renew their passes every year for the use of their fire-arms. This year, passes have been withheld from many, and will not be granted to them unless they can produce certificates of good conduct from the police. The consequence of this will be that many will be compelled to bribe the police, and the depredations of wild animals will increase if fire-arms are not returned at all.

SILCHAR.

66. The same paper says that during the last Muniপুর war many mirasdars of Cachar were compelled to lend their elephants to Government for carrying transport. Through overwork many of these animals have died. Thus many people who depended on their animals for their livelihood have been put to great difficulty. Government ought to grant compensation to them.

Compensation to the mirasdars of Cachar.

SILCHAR.

SILCHAR,
March 7th 1892

67. The same paper says that the Patnis of Cachar are a very inoffensive set of people. Many of them have now received education at pathsalas, and are not far inferior to middle-class people in pecuniary condition. They even supply coolies to Government. But through the machinations of Mussulman mirasdars they are sometimes pressed into State service as coolies. They are prepared to pay a cooly tax in order to be exempted from *begar* service. Their prayer in this respect ought to be granted by Government.

. CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 26th March 1892.